



# PDC NEWS

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711 Capitol Way, Room 206  
Olympia Washington

## **Public Disclosure Commission**

**Christine Yorozu, Chair**  
**Gerry Marsh, Vice-Chair**  
**Lois Clement, Secretary**  
**Susan Brady, Commissioner**

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### **Enforcement Action**

Commission staff reported the results of an investigation resulting from two citizen's action letters filed by Robert Edelman with the Office of the Attorney General. In the first letter, Mr. Edelman claimed that Rick Luther, Kevin Esping and Christopher Hurst, police officers with the Black Diamond Police Department, sponsored a political advertisement containing false statements of material fact. In the second letter, Mr. Edelman claimed that Black Diamond Citizens for Political Responsibility sponsored three political advertisements that contained false statements of material fact. The investigation revealed that there was insufficient evidence to support the allegations made by Mr. Edelman. The Commission agreed to advise the Attorney General that no further action is warranted.

The Commission accepted proposed Stipulations of Facts and Violations against Geoff Simpson, Keven Rojecki and John Gallup. The three respondents were charged with violating RCW 42.17.130 by using the facilities of the SeaTac Fire Department to support Simpson's election campaign. The Commission assessed a penalty of \$2,500 against Simpson, but suspended \$500 for two years if no further violations of the public disclosure law occur. Rojecki was fined \$1,000 with \$500 suspended, and Gallup was penalized \$1,000 with \$750 suspended.

An enforcement hearing was held against Protect Our Pets and Wildlife for allegedly failing to timely report over \$500,000 in "orders placed but not yet paid." After hearing testimony and arguments by legal counsel, the Commission directed both attorneys to submit written briefs. The Commission will re-visit this matter in February.

### **Personal Financial Affairs Reporting**

Sarah Jewell, University of Washington Regent, was granted an exemption from reporting the business and governmental customers of Premera Blue Cross on her F-1 Statement.

The Commission also vacated a Petition for Disclosure for school board members in the Starbuck School District. In 1996, citizens within the school district submitted a petition for disclosure to the Commission requiring school board members to file the annual Personal Financial Affairs report. The Commission was presented with a resolution passed by the school board that requested the Petition for Disclosure be vacated.

Lists of the professional staff from the Office of the Governor, State House of Representatives, and the State Senate required to file the Personal Financial Affairs Statement were approved by the Commission.

### **Rule Making**

The Public Disclosure Commission directed staff to begin rulemaking on issues involving independent expenditures and exempt activities of political parties. Stakeholder meetings will be scheduled during February and March, followed by public hearings later this spring. Permanent adoption of the rules will be scheduled for May and the rules will become effective by June 30, 2002.

### **Request for Review**

**NextLink Washington, Inc**, was found in violation at a brief enforcement hearing held November 1, 2001 for failing to timely file the Lobbyist Employer Report. The request for review was denied.

**Washington State Drilling and Groundwater Association** was also found in violation at a brief enforcement hearing held November 1, 2001 for failing to timely file the Lobbyist Employer Report. Staff requested the Commission vacate its previous order because the report in question had been filed on time, though under a different name. The Commission voted to vacate the order.

### **Request for Reconsideration**

**Lawrence Soriano, School Board Candidate for Seattle Schools**, was found in violation for failing to timely file reports of contributions and expenditures at a hearing on December 4, 2001. His request for reconsideration of the \$1,000 penalty (with a \$500 suspension) was denied.

The Commission meeting materials may be found at [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov) under **Commission Meetings** at **Meeting Agendas and Materials**. For additional information concerning these issues contact Susan Harris, Assistant Director, at (360) 753-1981, toll free 1-877-601-2828 or e-mail at [sharris@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:sharris@pdc.wa.gov).